

Regular Council Meeting—August 13, 2013

The meeting of the Council of the Town of Altavista was held in the Council Chambers of the J.R. Burgess Municipal Building, 510 Seventh Street on August 13, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

1. Mayor Mattox called the meeting to order and presided.
2. Rev. Michael Duncan, Central Baptist Church, gave the invocation.

Council members
present:

Mayor Michael Mattox
Mrs. Beverley Dalton
Mr. Charles Edwards
Mr. Tracy Emerson
Mr. Bill Ferguson
Mr. Timothy George
Mr. Jay Higginbotham

Also present:

Mr. J. Waverly Coggsdale, III, Town Manager
Mrs. Tobie Shelton, Finance Director
Interim Chief Ken Walsh, Police Department
Mr. John Tomlin, Director of Public Works
Mr. Steve Bond, Wastewater Treatment Director
Mrs. Megan Lucas, Economic Dev. Director

3. Mayor Mattox asked if there were any questions regarding the agenda.

A motion was made by Mr. Ferguson, seconded by Mr. George, to approve the agenda.

Motion carried:

VOTE:	Mr. Michael Mattox	Yes
	Mrs. Beverley Dalton	Yes
	Mr. Charles Edwards	Yes
	Mr. Tracy Emerson	Yes
	Mr. Bill Ferguson	Yes
	Mr. Timothy George	Yes
	Mr. Jay Higginbotham	Yes

4. Public Comment

Mayor Mattox asked if anyone would like to speak on anything not listed on the agenda.

Mr. Ed Scruggs, 4 Sourwood Lane, came forward and asked Council to deliberate the Meals Tax contract that has been negotiated with Campbell County in terms of paying one half of it to the county once the meals tax reaches 2.5 million.

Mrs. Holly Saunders, 1105 Bedford Avenue and manager of Vista Food Market, addressed Council in regards to the road construction on Pittsylvania and Main Street and the toll it has taken on her business. She stated she appreciated the improvements to downtown and hopes it will enhance the businesses. She stated her store has been deeply affected by the construction which began March 2013 and was to be completed May 31, 2013; the present completion day is now near the end of August. She stated she has experienced decreases in customer count (as much as 800 a week) and sales (14% to 15%). She mentioned over the past 10 years Vista Market has weathered the effects of a new Wal-Mart, the recession and now the construction; stating the long construction process has created a financial hardship. She stated they have obviously lost customers over the past six months; feeling these customers may or may not come back and that it would take a long time for the business to return to normal. Mrs. Saunders asked for a meeting with Mayor Mattox and/or Mr. Coggsdale to find a resolution for this situation.

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Mayor Mattox apologized to Mrs. Saunders for the amount of time taken to complete the Main/Pittsylvania project and how it has affected her business.

5. Special Items or Recognitions

6. Consent Agenda

- a) Approval of Minutes-Regular Meeting July 9, 2013
- b) Receive monthly review of Invoices
- c) Receive monthly review of Revenue & Expenditures
- d) Receive monthly review of Reserve Balance/Investment Report
- e) Receive annual FY2013 Capital Improvement Program Report
- f) Reappointment of Wilson Dickerson to the Board of Zoning Appeals

A motion was made by Mr. Ferguson, seconded by Mr. George, to approve the items as listed on the consent agenda.

Motion carried:

VOTE:	Mr. Michael Mattox	Yes
	Mrs. Beverley Dalton	Yes
	Mr. Charles Edwards	Yes
	Mr. Tracy Emerson	Yes
	Mr. Bill Ferguson	Yes
	Mr. Timothy George	Yes
	Mr. Jay Higginbotham	Yes

7. Public Hearings

8. Standing Committee/Commission/Board Reports

a) Council Committees

i. Finance/Human Resources Committee

Armory Reuse/Redevelopment Proposal Review

Mrs. Dalton advised the Finance Committee has been reviewing the proposal submitted by the local Masonic Lodge for use of the Armory Building located on Avondale Drive. On a parallel track, in accordance with the Town Strategic Work Plan, the Office of Economic Development has been gauging interest of developers for use of the property for some type of “senior housing”. Recently, staff met with a developer and toured this as well as other properties in the community, and there appears to be some level of interest. At this point, the Committee has asked staff to continue the discussions with the Masonic Lodge representatives to develop a more specific and detailed proposal of their viability for the reuse of the facility.

Budget Amendments – Carryover from FY2013 to FY2014

Mrs. Dalton advised the Finance Committee has reviewed a memorandum from the Finance Director and recommends that the Budget Amendments for Carryover from FY2013 to FY2014 be approved as presented.

A motion was made by Mrs. Dalton, seconded by Mr. George, to approve Budget Amendments-Carryover from FY2013 to FY2014.

Motion carried:

VOTE:	Mr. Michael Mattox	Yes
	Mrs. Beverley Dalton	Yes
	Mr. Charles Edwards	Yes
	Mr. Tracy Emerson	Yes

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Mr. Bill Ferguson	Yes
Mr. Timothy George	Yes
Mr. Jay Higginbotham	Yes

Other Agenda items

Health Care Benefits for Retirees: Staff is working with the Town Attorney to learn more about this item that was brought to their attention; this appears to be a legislative mandate.

ii. Police/Legislative Committee

Mr. Edwards advised the Interim Chief has submitted the monthly report which was included in the Council's packet. He noted he, Interim Chief Walsh and Mr. Coggsdale have met to discuss staffing within the police department and he is very satisfied with how things are being handled thus far.

Interim Chief Walsh introduced Patrol Officer Jesse Marlow who started with the Altavista Police Department on August 2, 2013. Patrol Officer Marlow is a certified officer from Norfolk Police Department and Hampton Sheriff's Office.

iii. Public Works/Utility Committee

Mausoleum Area

Mr. Ferguson advised the Public Works Committee continued the discussion regarding the screening of the area located beside and behind the mausoleum. The Committee felt that a combination of Leland Cypress trees and a gate would provide the necessary screening for this area. Staff is looking at alternatives to accomplish this item.

Parking Layout – 7th Street

Mr. Ferguson reported staff was approached by Central Baptist Church regarding a potential change in the parking layout on 7th Street to assist handicap individuals. Several options were discussed and staff has analyzed each and recommended that a "pedestrian crosswalk" be established from the entrance of Town Hall to the east side of 7th Street. This would allow a designated connection from the Town Hall parking lot and in addition, would provide an accessible "curb cut" on the east side of 7th Street that could potentially be utilized for handicapped individuals, either on a permanent or "as needed" basis. He noted with the on-going project approaching the area in the next month or so, it was important to decide so as not to delay the project. The Committee recommends the "pedestrian crosswalk" and the curb cut on the east side of 7th Street be presented to the businesses in the area and if agreeable this be included in the on-going project.

Mr. Higginbotham felt it was critical to contact the affected businesses in regards to this plan.

On-going Items

Mr. Ferguson advised of some ongoing items:

Bulk Pick up Items: Previously there had been an issue regarding special pickup at the Thrift Store. Staff will work with the local non-profit organizations on this issue and monitor the issue to see if any additional action will be needed.

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Region 2000 – Town Bicycle Accommodation Plan “Draft” – Staff distributed copies of the plan and this item will be placed back on the Committee’s agenda for future discussion.

WWTP Emergency Overflow Pond – Staff is working with several companies in regard to testing/sampling and field tests at this time. Staff is planning on providing a detailed progress update to Council later in August.

Mrs. Dalton mentioned she had met with the president of the Colonel Club in regards to erecting signs that bring attention to state champion teams at the high school. At this time the Colonel Club is asking the town’s permission, as this their project and they are covering the cost. Mrs. Dalton stated she saw no reason for Council to object to allowing the Colonel Club to move forward with this project. The signs will be located in three locations, Pittsylvania Avenue, Bedford Avenue and on the north end of Main Street.

Council was in agreement to allow the Colonel Club to move forward with their sign installation project.

b) Others

9. New Business

i. Veteran’s Association

Mr. Ralph English, representative of the local chapter of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4165 and American Legion Memorial Post 36, addressed Council. Mr. English requested permission for the VFW to be allowed to restore and update the War Memorial Park located at the entrance of the War Memorial Baseball Park. The scope of the work would include refinishing all the brass plaques, replace the lower plaque that recognizes the war dead, and to add Marine Staff Sergeant Greg Copes and Army Corpal Christopher Murphy (1907) to the plaque. He stated they would seek names of those killed in action from this area that may qualify for this update. (A death that was recognized by awarding of the Purple Heart is required). The VFW is looking to replace all the historical documents that are mounted in the Freedom Shrine. Mr. English mentioned the cost for this project is \$8,000 which the VFW has available. He requested the Town of Altavista receive the funds and pay the vendors; the VFW Committee will approve all payments and asked that the Town keep the line item open for future donations. The third request was for the Town to consider replacing the plexiglas and repaint the display after the historical documents have been purchased and replaced. Mr. English congratulated the Town for the care and maintenance of the memorial.

Mrs. Dalton questioned the cost of the plexiglas.

Mr. English stated he asked Mr. Witt to obtain a cost.

Mayor Mattox questioned if this account is specific for maintenance and upgrade of the War Memorial.

Mr. English answered affirmatively.

A motion was made by Mr. Edwards, seconded by Mrs. Dalton, to approve the requests of the local chapter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and refer to staff to implement.

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Motion carried:

VOTE:	Mr. Michael Mattox	Yes
	Mrs. Beverley Dalton	Yes
	Mr. Charles Edwards	Yes
	Mr. Tracy Emerson	Yes
	Mr. Bill Ferguson	Yes
	Mr. Timothy George	Yes
	Mr. Jay Higginbotham	Yes

ii. Engineer Design Services for Project 1A (Bedford Avenue)

Mr. Coggsdale advised staff has been looking at the engineering design for the Bedford Avenue proposed waterline project. Proposals have been sought from three firms that the Town has contracted with; only two firms responded. WW Associates submitted the low proposal. Staff would like authority to work with the engineer on some of the components that might need to be pulled out.

A motion was made by Mrs. Dalton, seconded by Mr. Edwards, to authorize staff to work with the engineer on the proposed Bedford Avenue waterline project and allow the Town Manager to execute the document.

Motion carried:

VOTE:	Mr. Michael Mattox	Yes
	Mrs. Beverley Dalton	Yes
	Mr. Charles Edwards	Yes
	Mr. Tracy Emerson	Yes
	Mr. Bill Ferguson	Yes
	Mr. Timothy George	Yes
	Mr. Jay Higginbotham	Yes

10. Unfinished Business

a) School/Town Mutual Benefit Resolution

Mr. Coggsdale advised at the July Town Council meeting, staff presented a draft School/Town Mutual Benefit resolution for Council's review. The document was tabled until the standing committees could meet and discuss it. He asked Council for their feedback on the resolution and if it was in a form that they were comfortable with.

Mrs. Dalton stated she was comfortable with it as long as it is hand delivered with explanation of Council's intent at one of the school board meetings.

Mr. Higginbotham stated the concern is when and if the high school is relocated the impact it will have on the community.

Mrs. Dalton noted the School Board is not going about this lightly and they have their reasons and ways and she did not want student body to be compromised in terms of quality of education. She felt Council's concerns could be duly noted.

Mr. Higginbotham felt the School Board was taking economic numbers and saying they could save money if this was done. He said they might save money but by spending the money here in Altavista we can upgrade our system and it is worth more.

A motion was made by Mrs. Dalton, seconded by Mr. Ferguson, to adopt the School/Town Mutual Benefit Resolution.

Motion carried:

VOTE:	Mr. Michael Mattox	Yes
	Mrs. Beverley Dalton	Yes
	Mr. Charles Edwards	Yes

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Mr. Tracy Emerson	Yes
Mr. Bill Ferguson	Yes
Mr. Timothy George	Yes
Mr. Jay Higginbotham	Yes

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE MUTUAL BENEFIT
BETWEEN LOCAL SCHOOLS AND THE COMMUNITY.

WHEREAS, the Altavista community is home to both the Altavista Elementary and the Altavista Combined Schools, as a part of the Campbell County School System; and

WHEREAS, researchers and practitioners have documented for some time how schools and communities working toward common goals can be beneficial; and

WHEREAS, communities can provide schools with a context and environment that can complement and reinforce the values, culture, and learning the schools provide for their students; and

WHEREAS, communities have the potential to extend a variety of opportunities to students and to their families – social, cultural, and vocational; and

WHEREAS, local schools offer communities a focal point of educational services for children. Symbolically, schools are seen by many as the last enduring public institutions in many communities; and

WHEREAS, local schools frequently provide employment for community residents and it has been asserted that they improve the local economy and attract business; and

WHEREAS, local schools, more importantly, have the potential to build well-educated citizens ready to take on responsibilities as contributing community members; and

WHEREAS, local schools are a main component in assessing and promoting a higher quality of life in a community; and

WHEREAS, the Altavista community and its local schools are mutually beneficial to each other and the school-community collaboration offers hope for a better, more promising future; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ALTAVISTA TOWN COUNCIL that the mutual benefit our local community and our local schools have on one another is duly acknowledged.

Adopted the ____ day of _____, 2013.

Mike Mattox, Mayor
Town of Altavista

Attested:

J. Waverly Coggsdale, III, Clerk

11. Manager's Report

a) Project Updates

VDOT Enhancement Project and Downtown Utility Replacement Project and
Pittsylvania Avenue Intersection Project

Mr. Coggsdale mentioned this project is ongoing with a portion of it being paved today. He noted staff is continuing to work with contractors on the

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delays. Work will continue up Main Street to Campbell Avenue, the other half of Pittsylvania, up Seventh Street to Broad Street. Mr. Coggsdale expressed his appreciation for the patience during this long process.

Mr. Edwards stated he drives through the area everyday and applauded the crew when the intersection was opened up. He questioned if Main Street at the entrance to Vista Foods could be polished up to help with Mrs. Saunders' situation.

Mr. Coggsdale stated the main focus is Pittsylvania Avenue to allow trucks delivering to the store access.

Mr. Edwards referred to the "completion date" as being the end of the year and asked if there could be an interim date where some of the work along Main Street near Vista Food could be completed, showing Council's concern. Mr. Coggsdale stated he and Mayor Mattox would discuss these matters in more detail with Mrs. Saunders.

- b) Reports
 - i. Departmental
 - ii. Others
- c) Other Items as Necessary
- d) Informational Items

12. Matters from Town Council

Mayor Mattox stated Council is hoping to get into the rotation of the County/Town meetings with the Town of Brookneal and the Board of Supervisors and is looking at scheduling a meeting in October.

Mayor Mattox addressed Mr. Scruggs concern and told him the Finance Committee and Town Attorney is reviewing.

13. Closed Session

Mayor Mattox asked if there was anything else to bring before Council.

No one came forward.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Michael E. Mattox, Mayor

J. Waverly Coggsdale, III, Clerk